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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Yasuhiro Watanabe et al. Confirmation No.:
Serial No. : 10/802,353
Filed : March 16, 2004
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :

Docket No. : 04-218
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the documents listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed.

- (1) Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2002-66999 (published on March 5, 2002). The abstract is attached hereto.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the

present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Yasuhiro Watanabe et al.

By 

Gregory P. LaPointe

Attorney for Applicants

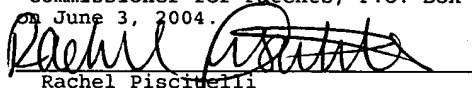
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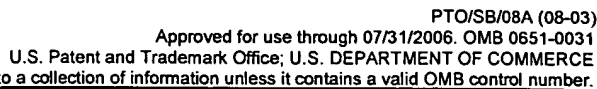
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(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/802,353
Filing Date	March 16, 2004
First Named Inventor	Yasuhiro Watanabe et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	04-218

Sheet	1	of	1
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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